The Brethren Evangelist,
THE BRETHREN CHURCH PAPER,
Ashland, - - Ohio.

THE FIELD.

LAWRENCE, KANSAS, Dec. 13.—In all kindness to those who may differ from me, I want to say a few words in favor of the convention appointed for this place, to be held Dec. 29th. It does seem that the great number of plans now being proposed argues still stronger in favor of a convention, where the various plans will all be brought together and compared and deliberated upon, and then one adopted that meets the approbation of the greatest number of Delegates. Other than this it may be hard to get the concurrence of the general membership. It is not so difficult to originate a plan as it is to get all to work to it. As Bro. J. W. Beer truly says, the membership has to be reached; yes, dear brother is it not likely that we could reach them best by getting your plan or some other plan endorsed and accepted by the greatest possible number? And in order to do this shall we not meet in convention in order to get the concurrence? Without it no plan will work. It is the secret of success to draft a system that will meet general approval. It should not matter so much to the Missionaries what plan is adopted, so it works well.

So, Brethren, bring your plans to the convention, and let no one determine to have his plan adopted, but let us meet with an ardent desire that of the many plans brought together we may as a body working in concert, hope to formulate one from them that the delegation would be satisfied with.

JOSEPH MICHAEL.

MIDDLETOWN, VA., Dec. 10.—Since my last report, we, the Providence Church, have had our communion or love feast, and truly it was a feast to the soul. We expected Bro. McFaden, of Md., but he was in the West and could not be with us at our feast; but we had that valiant soldier of the Cross E. B. Shaver and Bro. J. Leedy who did noble work for us.

One was baptized on the evening of the feast and eleven in all since our reorganization, which was on April 1, 1885, and every thing seems to be moving in our favor.

At our feast one of the G. B. ministers was present and helped some and also one deacon, and I have been informed by good authority that he could see no difference on matters the Gospel commanded. I know one thing, it has shut their mouths about molasses and cheese which they said that the Progressives used at their loveteast, and the deacon says, "I know now how they have told the untruth," and so in short he is on the fence and will soon step down.

We have organized a prayer meeting but owing to bad nights, had small attendance. Hope to have the brethren pray for me; having been chosen superintendant, I feel weak.

So you see we are progressing slowly along, and I hope surely. There is a bright prospect in the future for us. There are some here that are counting the cost and will ere long turn in with the people of God. Our members are alive to the work, and if any of our ministers or brethren pass this way, please stop off at Middletown and give us a call; we shall gladly receive you.

The EVANGELIST is getting better every number. Brethren help our efforts in the good work.

Yours in hope of eternal life.

JACOB C. RINKER.

NICKERSON, KANS., Dec. 12th, 1885.—We began a series of meetings in the Homestead School House 3½ miles from Nickerson, Nov. 29th, and closed Dec. 6th preached nine sermons. No immediate accessions, but some are nearing the Kingdom, and two have signified their intention to unite with us at some future time. May God bless and save them.

J. W. BEER.

NAT. MILITARY HOME, O., Dec. 13.—P. J. Brown is holding a protracted meeting in the Brethren meeting house in the Bear Creek church, seven miles west of Dayton, O., with great interest. Seven precious souls confessed Christ.

Meeting is still going on with a crowded house. Brother Brown is a wonderful expounder of the Gospel of Christ.

We will give a full report later.

A. BEEGHLY.

DAYTON, O., Dec. 16.—On last Sabbath brother E. S. Miller and this Wednesday evening, brother E. Mason preached for us, as announced in the EVANGELIST. But according to an arrangement made by brother Mason and brother P. J. Brown, the latter was to preach for us this evening. Owing to the increased interest in the revival at the Bear Creek church, brother Brown did not appear. The Lord is opening the hearts of the people and souls are flocking to the kingdom. Praise the Lord.

In No. 50, current volume, I am represented as saying, the once *despised*, *deserted*, and forsaken, but now *converted*, old church. Should be, but now *coveted*, old church.

The Lord willing, brother E. S. Miller will preach for us Sunday, Dec. 17th, at 10:30 A. M. Come let us bow before the Lord, our Maker.

Will not brother Mallott drop us a postal telling us when he will be present to commence the series of meetings spoken of nearly a year ago? We are patiently waiting, waiting.

S. KIEHL.

GARRISON, IOWA, Dec. 19.—"The College debt must be paid." Here is my donation to the "EVANGELIST Fund." May the love for the church and the desire to retain our educational privileges, inspire every reader of the EVANGELIST to make a donation for the benefit of the College. J. M. RIDENOUR.

WATERLOO, IOWA, Dec. 13th.—My people take the EVANGELIST and I have the pleasure of reading it. I am pleased to know that one page is given to the sister's, and that there is something expected of us, as for myself, I have never tried to write for a paper before, but have always enjoyed reading the productions of others. I wish those that can write would write often, and help to make the paper interesting and instructive. It is certainly nice for those who cannot attend church to be cheered and encouraged in this way. If we can progress little by little, it will be better than not at all, and far better than forgetting our title, and stand still, or fall back.

Bro. S. H. Bashor, our earnest and efficient minister, is now in Ill. Bro. E. Hildebrand took his place to-day, and certainly does well for one who has been in the ministry so short a time. The Brethren have opposition on every side, but I hope to see the Progressive banner floating higher and higher. "If God be for us who can be against us?" Pray for me.

MARY DIETZ.

The Beginning of the End.

Brethren, I feel constrained to offer a few thoughts for your consideration in regard to our school at Ashland.

Bro. Cober's appeal, "Member of the Board," and "D. R." have struck the key note.

There seems to be different opinions in regard to a Convention, and I will herein presume to give mine. I don't think sectional controversy is what we need now. "D. R." has it. A National Convention is what we want, the College debt wiped out, and then the church will prosper, and money can be easily raised for other purposes. Just think of $2 for each member. There are six members in our family and I will pity Ashland College $25 for each of us, besides all that we have paid. That will help a little towards paying for some who cannot pay $2. It is no use to talk to us about missionary funds or funds for any purpose, until the College debt is set clear. In fact, if the Brethren let Ashland College pass into other hands we will feel like giving up. The College is the first thing to be considered. Pay the debt so that brother Holsinger can go to preaching instead of begging for the school; and after that has come to pass it will be an easy matter to raise money for any other purpose. I would like to know who "D. R." is. The initials of my name are, RICHARD ARNOLD.

Montana, Kans.

A Response.

Having read the suggestions given by J. and J. relative to evangelistic work in Penna., and, inasmuch is we are in need of a systemized method of church work, I feel like giving my mind in plain language. I do not approve of said suggestion.

1. It does not inaugurate a system of Pastoral work. 2. It does not give us the financial status of the Congregation. 3. It would lead to dissatisfaction in regard to the evangelists. Each congregation would desire to retain its ablest minister to remain at home and preach for them. 4. It might fall to the lot of one who could not go if ever so well qualified for the work.

I am in favor of a Convention, and with Bro. Spanogle, will say, we do not understand church work, if we dally and drag along as we are now doing. Let us awake. I think it wise and prudent to act, and act at once. Each congregation should select one or more delegates and let us meet and consult and devise means and measures and go to work in earnest; and I move you Brother ministers, that a convention be held at Johnstown on Tuesday, Jan 26, 1886. Let each minister come and bring a report of territory, appointments members, financial status etc., delegates or no, come and let us reason together and discharge the duties we owe to our fellowmen, to the church, and to almighty God.

I do not wish to be a leader in this matter, but feel it a duty; and without a convention it would be useless to try to systemize, and I am confident it would be said of our Convention at the end of the year, that it was wise and condusive of much good.

Now, brethren, let us make a good pull, a strong pull, and a pull altogether.

E. H. SMITH.

Smicksburg, Pa.

Result of an Attempt to Organize.

KIMBALL, D. T., Dec. 12.—According to previous arrangements we met in what is known as the Robert's School house No. 2. three miles south of Kimball, to organize a Congregation, as we supposed would be Progressive. Eld. Cook and about a dozen members came up from the Bizon Hills twenty-seven miles distant Cornelius Miller, Z. F. Klingaman and wife, Henry McCartney and wife, the writer and wife, were present. The meeting opened by singing the Hymn, "I love thy Kingdom Lord" accompanied by the chorus, "Wash me in thy Blood." Prayer by Eld. Cook, prefaced by a few very appropiate remarks. The 17th chapter of St. John was read by Eld. Jacob A. Murray, followed by an exortation, which was certainly to the point. Next Murray undertook to explain the difficulty under which we were to organize, but made a complete failure. After giving liberty to others to express their views Mr. Murray, sat down in disgust. The writer proposed that we take an informal ballott so as to get an expression of the people present on what kind of an organization it should be. This brought matters to a focus, by Murray arising to explain his position, saying he belonged to the Conservative wing and always had, and could not organize any other, and would not say anything for or against Annual Meeting. The writer told them that might do if he had exclusive jurisdiction over the congregation.

After several private consultations by the Elder in the Ante Room Murray offered his certificate of membership; then appointed Elder Cook secretary, Murray then began to solicit the certificates of the members present of which there were about a dozen. One expelled Deacon was accepted without a certificate. All those who joined this organization live about twenty-seven miles south-west of this place, except Murray.

Short speeches were indulged by Cornelius Miller, Henry Mc Cartey who declined to participate in a Conservative organization. Murray told us he had letters from the South Waterloo Congregation authorizing him (Murray) to take Cornelius Miller and wife and Z. F. Klingaman and wife, in and it would be all right. They all politely declined to take hold of the deceptive hook that was to straud them on the beach. Right here the Progressives proposed that the Convention go on with their organization as we were not in accord with conservative organization.

On motion of Eld. Cook, Murray was to have the oversight of the congregation and a permanent secretary and treasurer were elected. In conclusion a hymn was sung, and prayer offered by Murray. The Progressives requested Eld. Cook to preach in the evening, which he did from the third chapter of St. John, and did it well. Eld. Cook and the membership, from the south west and from some part of the state of Indiana, are excellent people and we believe Christians. But they claim to have been terribly deceived in regard to the sentiments of the people in and around Kimball.

We, who are in sympathy with a Progressive organization, supposed Murray was Progressive. He told the writer on the 5th day of Dec., 1885, that he was neither Progressive nor Conservative. On the 12th day of Dec., 1885, he declared he was Conservative and always had been. Murray had his orders from the Sanhedrin and did not have the backbone to stand up for Justice and Equity.

We are now ready for a Progressive organization and shall have one as sure as we can get a minister to give us a helping hand. We will try hard to renumerate any one coming to our relief

May the good Lord hasten the day when we can worship Him in spirit and in truth, with no fears of the Bishop's lash.

C. P. L. ROBERTS

Miami Valley Items.

On the first Saturday in the new year, there will be a love-feast in the Lexington church, We hope the Farmersville and Bear Creek Brethren will make a note of this and enthuse the meeting with their presence. This communion will be right in the midst of the protracted meeting that brother Mallott expects to conduct at that place.

Bro. P. J. Brown is still in the "Valley," and is wielding the Gospel sledge hammer in a very telling manner. This is Wednesday evening and up to date there have been eleven conversions, and still they come.

Bro. Brown consented to preach at Farmersville on Tuesday evening, at Dayton on Wednesday evening, but on account of the increased interest and enthusiasm at the Bear Creek meetings, the appointments were filled by other parties. Although many were greatly disappointed, yet we hope that under the circumstances everyone will willingly excuse him.

The meetings at Bear Creek will now continue over Sunday.

Brethren, let me again remind you of the contemplated meetings by brother Mallott at Lexington, commencing Sunday evening, Dec. 27th, and especially the communion on Saturday following, Jan. 2nd. Your presence and help are needed there.

EDWARD MASON.

The seeds of love can ever grow under the warm, genial influence of kind feelings and affectionate manners.